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**Conservation ...
Our Purpose.
Our Passion.**

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2012 Report

Issue 6

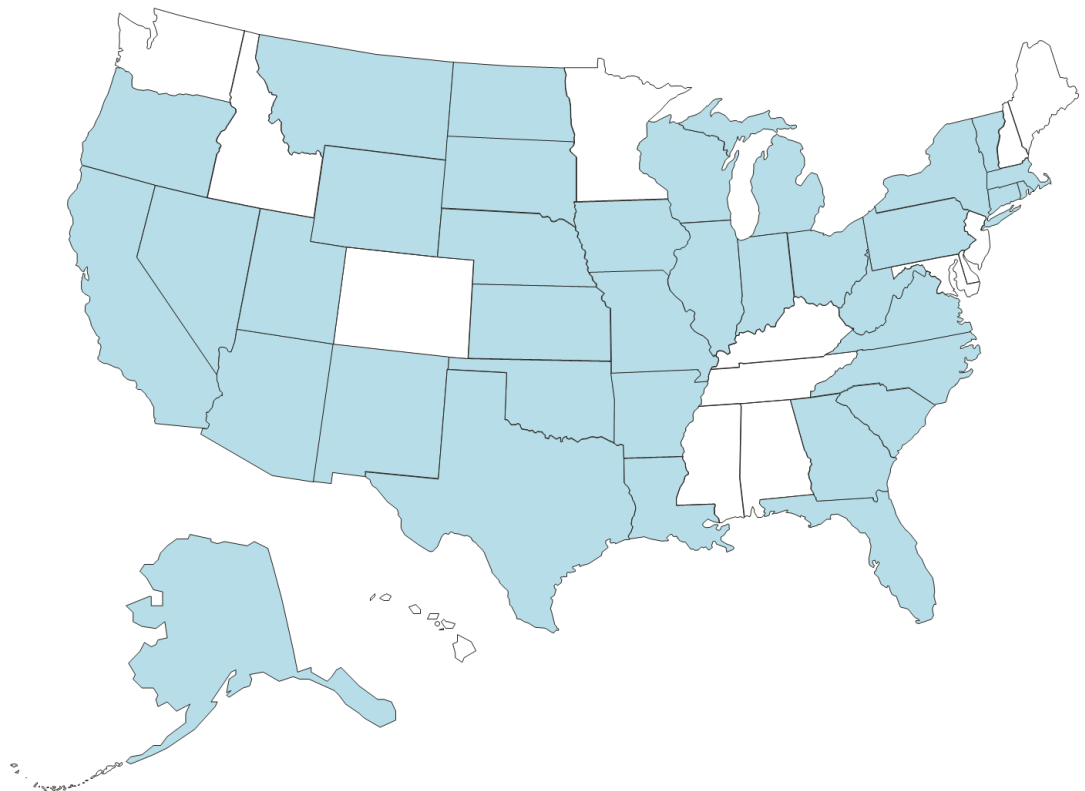
January 2013

From the Director



Happy New Year! The NDCSMC is excited and looking forward to 2013. Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher, said the only thing that is constant is change. The NDCSMC strives to make changes that will help you in fulfilling the NRCS mission. As such, in this issue you will find information about many new and exciting endeavors that have been implemented. I hope these new items will help you get more conservation on the ground.

The map below shows where the NDCSMC provided assistance during calendar year 2012. This assistance may have been an independent design review, field review and recommendations, or a workshop. The map doesn't reflect time our staff spent providing assistance over the phone or email. Again, the NDCSMC is here to support you.



2012 NDCSMC Assistance

New NEDC course now available for Field Office Construction Inspection



A new NEDC training course has been developed on construction and inspection of practices installed at the field office level.

This new course contains some items similar to the Construction Inspection course, but doesn't spend as much time in how to deal with Federal or CLO contracts.

The existing Construction Inspection course remains unchanged and will still be offered, but with less frequency as it is anticipated that this new course will be in high demand.

Instructors for the new course are field engineers and technicians that have tremendous levels of field office experience and training skills.

You can enroll in the course through AgLearn, by searching for NEDC-000276 Field Construction Quality Assurance.

Brian Lang, Construction Engineer, Salina, KS is the course technical coordinator.

Seismic design guide under development

The NDCSMC has contracted with one of the A&E IDIQ firms to develop a Seismic Analysis Manual to guide NRCS personnel on performance and implementation of seismic analysis as required by TR-60.

Although targeted primarily to assist in the design of floodwater retarding structures, the analytical methods included in the manual will also be applicable to the analysis and design of other conservation practices.

The target user for the manual will be engineers and geologists who will perform the work addressed by the manual. The manual is being written to assist those with limited experience in seismic analysis.

It is anticipated that a draft of the design guide will be available for comments later in 2013.

Training during 2012

The NDCSMC provided training to 625 NRCS employees in 2012, utilizing the following training methods:

- 8 state-hosted workshops
- 12 NEDC courses
- 2 NDCSMC-hosted workshops

As travel restrictions become more stringent and training budgets become tighter, the NDCSMC is looking

at ways to accomplish training while saving money.

Four VTC workshops were conducted in 2012. Reviews on VTC were mixed, but generally favorable.

If the NDCSMC can assist in your training needs, please contact Johnny Green at johnny.green@ftw.usda.gov or (817) 509-3751.

New Construction Inspection Handbook

National Engineering Handbook (NEH) Part 645 – Construction Inspection will replace NEH 19. Chapters 1 - 4, 7, 13, and several chapter appendices were published in 2012. NEH 19 will remain in effect until all of NEH 645 has been published, at which time NEH 19 will be archived.

Almost all of the content of NEH 19 is being incorporated into NEH 645. Additional subject matter is being added to address current construction materials, practices, and measures that have evolved or otherwise developed since NEH 19 was last revised in 1985. Unlike NEH 19 which focused primarily on construction associated with the Small Watershed Program, NEH 645 includes guidance on the inspection of construction associated with a broad range of conservation engineering measures.

When fully published, NEH 645 will contain 21 chapters. The portion of the handbook that has been published is on NRCS eDirectives at: <http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/viewerFS.aspx?hid=31701>. The chapters and appendix items remaining to be published will be published as they are written.

Dennis Clute, Construction Engineer, is coordinating this effort with input from NDCSMC staff and engineers and technicians throughout the agency. Any questions or comments can be addressed to Dennis at dennis.clute@ftw.usda.gov, or by phone at (817)-509-3765.

SharePoint repository of State developed standard drawings now available

The NDCSMC has created a National CAD Support SharePoint site where states can share standard drawings. Currently there are 2,405 drawings that have been submitted by nine states and the NDCSMC.

The SharePoint site is located at: <https://nrcc.sc.egov.usda.gov/st/ndcsmc/CAD>. Anyone with an eAuth login can view the site, but permission to upload drawings is limited to two individuals that have been identified by each state conservation engineer.

The screenshot shows the 'National CAD Support' SharePoint site. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'National CAD Support' and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, there's a 'Select Type of Drawing' dropdown menu. The main content area displays a table of drawings with columns for Type, Name, Drawing Title, Category, and State. The table lists various drawing types such as '1' High R/C Wall 6" Wall Thickness (dwg)', '1/2 Round Flashboard Riser CMP Water Control Structure (dwg)', and '11x17" Sheet w/ 10x10 Grid (pdf)'. To the right of the table, there's a 'Links' section with links to 'CAD Contacts', 'FY-12 Approved CAD Installations, by State', and 'Getting Started with Civil 3D 2010 Training Videos'. Below the links, there's a section for 'NRCS Custom Civil 3D 2012 Files' with links to '2012 Template Installation Instructions', 'Drawing Template (R1.1) for 11 X 17', and 'Drawing Template (R1.1) for 22 X 34'.

Other items that can also be found on the National CAD Support SharePoint are links to CAD contacts, approved CAD installations, training videos, and the customized Civil 3D templates.

Questions and suggestions on the SharePoint site can be directed to Kathy Miller, Civil Engineering Technician, at (817)-509-3767 or kathy.j.miller@ftw.usda.gov.

Web site for public download of NRCS Science & Technology software launched

The screenshot shows the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service website. The header includes the USDA logo and navigation links for 'About NRCS', 'Careers', 'National Centers', and 'State Offices'. Below the header, there's a 'Science and Technology Conservation Tools Software' section. This section includes a 'NOTE' stating that the software is intended for use by NRCS Partners, Consultants, Technical Service Providers (TSP), Universities, Private Citizens, etc., and that NRCS employees must contact their local TSD staff for installation. Below the note, there's a table of software tools with columns for Name, Version, Conservation Tool Description, and Download. The table lists three tools: AGNPS (Agricultural Non-Point Source Pollution Model), AgPipe (Agricultural Pipeline Program), and ArcSWAT (Agricultural Watershed Assessment Tool). To the left of the table, there's a sidebar with links to 'I Want To...', 'Contacts', and 'Areas of Focus...'. The 'I Want To...' section includes links to 'Download conservation tools' and 'Request NDCSMC Assistance'. The 'Contacts' section includes links to 'NDCSMC Staff', 'CAD Contacts', 'NRCS Design Engineers', and 'Conservation Engineering Division (CED)'. The 'Areas of Focus...' section includes links to 'Stream Corridors', 'Landscape Architecture', 'Geology', and 'Technical Workshops'.

There is now a location that NRCS conservation partners can go to and download the same internally developed tools that NRCS has certified for use on USDA owned computers.

The web page is located at: <http://www.ndcsmc.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/ndcsmc/?cid=stelprdb1042198>.

Questions can be directed to Carol Drungil, National Engineering Software Coordinator, at (970) 295-5380 or carol.drungil@ftc.usda.gov.

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People
Help the
Land*

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National Design, Construction
and Soil Mechanics Center

VISION: Excellence in application of conservation engineering technology.

MISSION: To provide interdisciplinary technical support for design, construction, operation, and rehabilitation of complex engineering projects essential to resource conservation, environmental enhancement, and agricultural productivity.

PRODUCTS: Products are service based and include engineering technology development, technology transfer (e.g., workshops and formal training), independent reviews, and site specific soil mechanics testing and/or production design work in support of Field and State Office operations. Products also include expert consultation to NRCS Headquarters, Centers, State Offices, Field Offices, and Design Teams.

National Design, Construction, and Soil Mechanics Center - Design & Construction Staff

Director: Johnny Green, PE

Secretary: Vacant

Construction Engineer

Dennis Clute, PE

Design Engineers

Mike Garsjo, PE

Phuc Vu, PE

David Williams, PE

Ken Worster, PE

Geotechnical Engineers

Ben Doerge, PE, GE

Tom Brown, PE

Hydraulic Engineer

Karl Visser, PE

Landscape Architect

Rosanna Brown, RLA

Stream Mechanics Engineer

Jon Fripp, PE

Structural Engineers

Lawrence F. Fragomeli, PE, SE

John Van Leeuwen, PE

Geologist

Craig Savelle, PG

Civil Engineering Technicians

Kathy Miller

Juan Renteria

Transitions.....

Four employees left the NDCSMC staff during 2012. We wish them the best of luck:

- **Marie Garsjo**, Geologist, retired on February 3, 2012, after nearly 34 years of Federal service.
- **Michael Cook**, Secretary, accepted a promotion with the Forest Service in Golden, CO on November 19, 2012.
- **David Pacheco**, Construction Engineer, accepted a promotion as National Construction Engineer in Washington, DC on November 19, 2012.
- **Gregg Tompkins**, CET, received a medical disability on December 26, 2012, following surgery for cancer.



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